

from the shafts of the feathers like a pinnate leaf; those bars broad and mottled with black; two middle feathers without white tips.

*Younger? form.*—As above described, but with the second primary slightly the longest.

*Dimensions.*—Total length of skin, from tip of bill to end of tail, about  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches; wing  $7\frac{1}{4}$ ; tail  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Colours.*—Very similar to the above, but with the grayish colour extending over the whole of the head. Under parts much darker, but with more numerous white rounded spots. Under tail-coverts fulvous with black lines. The fine white tips of the external tail-feathers tinged with fulvous.

*Hab.* South America.

*Obs.*—The distribution of the colours upon the upper surface of the body, in this handsome species, resembles in some degree that of *Scolopax rusticola*, or of *S. minor*.

It is not similar to any other species known to me, and can at once be recognized by the silky white tips of the external tail-feathers. These cross the feathers obliquely, and are so arranged that when the cuneiform tail is expanded, they form a continuous margin upon the ends of those three feathers.

This is one of the few species of this family which have pretensions to beauty. Two specimens are in the collection of the Academy.—*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia*, vol. iv. p. 236.

#### FORMER EXISTENCE OF GIGANTIC BEARS IN IRELAND.

*To Richard Taylor, Esq.*

Phil. Hall, Leeds, March 5, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR,—Having just read with much interest in the last number of the 'Annals,' my friend Dr. Ball's announcement of the former existence of gigantic bears in Ireland, probably coexistent with *Megaceros*, together with Professor Owen's valuable remarks on the same, it appeared to me that a ray of light is thrown on this question in one of Archdeacon Maunsell's letters respecting the gigantic deer, found at Rathcannon, and now in the Museum of the Royal Dublin Society. It is addressed to Lord Viscount Northland, and dated Limerick, April 7th, 1824, in which, after describing the above noble skeleton, he says, "I have also a skull of a dog of a large kind (at least of a carnivorous animal), which I found lying close to some of the remains, and which I will transmit with the bones of his old acquaintance."

Now, as Archdeacon Maunsell appears somewhat uncertain whether the said skull was really that of a *dog*, might it not have been that of the gigantic bear? If the identical specimen can still be traced and examined, after so many years, it might afford additional evidence upon so important a discovery.

Again, Professor Owen thinks it an interesting question to ascertain whether these ursine remains were contemporaneous with *Megaceros* or not, which could be decided by the relative antiquity of the formation in which they are found, *i. e.* peat or marl. Dr. Ball di-

stinctly says, the skulls contained fragments of the latter and none of the former; upon this point the Archdeacon also expressly states, "they were both found lying close together." If therefore the above skull eventually proves to be that of a bear, the period of its existence is decided to have been coæval with that of the Megaceros!

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

HENRY DENNY, A.L.S.

*On some new genera and species of Entozoa.* By Dr. LEIDY.

1. *Ascaris cylindrica*. Body nearly cylindrical throughout, anteriorly moderately attenuated; tail curved, 1-214th of an inch in length from the anus; œsophagus elongated, gibbous in the middle, with the œsophageal bulb and pharynx 1-100th of an inch in length; œsophageal bulb pyriform, 1-75th of an inch in diameter; ventricle or intestine somewhat tortuous, cylindrical, dilated at both extremities; rectum pyriform; female generative aperture about half-way between the mouth and tail. Whole length 4-5th of a line, breadth 1-12th of a line.

*Hab.* Small intestine of *Helix alternata*.

*Remarks.*—I found the female only of this species in fifteen out of forty specimens of *Helix alternata*, in numbers of from one to three. The ovaries in all were distended with ova, the latter measuring 1-430th of an inch in length by 1-576th in breadth.

2. *Ascaris infecta*. *Female*.—Subcylindrical, gradually diminishing towards the extremities, white, with a brown streak down the lower two-thirds of the middle line; anteriorly obtusely rounded; tail slightly curved, 1-80th of an inch long from the anus. The three papillæ of the mouth projecting; œsophagus strongly muscular, thick, oblong, pyriform, 1-80th of an inch long, greatest breadth 1-175th of an inch; œsophageal bulb cordiform, 1-166th of an inch long by 1-166th of an inch broad; ventricle slightly dilated at commencement, contracted posteriorly; generative orifice projecting, just below the middle of the body; vagina furnished with a large ovate seminal receptacle.

*Male*.—Dilated at both extremities; tail thick, 1-174th of an inch long, furnished upon its inner aspect with two minute tubercles. Above the anus are two rows, each of four tubercles, connected by delicate folds of integument. Œsophagus 1-111th of an inch long by 1-260th of an inch broad; œsophageal bulb depressed cordiform, 1-214th of an inch long by 1-250th of an inch broad. Penis formed of two curved spiculæ, measuring in length, in a straight line, 1-78th of an inch.

Length of adult female 3 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lines; breadth at origin of ventriculus 1-123rd of an inch; middle of body 1-83rd to 1-60th of an inch; just above anus 1-144th of an inch. Ova 1-319th of an inch long by 1-428th inch broad.

Length of male 2 lines; breadth at origin of ventriculus 1-176th of an inch; middle of body 1-211th of an inch; just above anus 1-202nd of an inch. Spermatophori oval, 1-1391 inch long by 1-1666th inch broad, with spermatozoa 1-3750th inch long by 1-10,000th inch broad.